

## THE WAWASET DISASTER

**CONCLUSION OF THE TESTIMONY.**

A Report of the Board of Examiners to be Made at an Early Day—What the Port Officials Knew of the Steamer and Her License—The Engineer and Some of the Crew Recalled and Examined—Probable Error in the Hooks of the Communion—No Clue to the Origin of the Fire Ascertained.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF RECEIVING INSPECTION,  
GENERAL OF STEAM LINES,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 12, 1898.  
NINTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE WAGWANT DISASTER.

Testimony of Lorenzo Brown.

Lorenzo Brown, of the City of New York, was sworn and testified as follows:

Examined by Mr. Smith: Q. Do you know what the woman meant by saying that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What does it mean? A. To come up and see me.

Q. How many berths were there in that first man's room down stairs? A. Two.

Q. Who occupied them? A. Me and the other German.

Q. What is the other German's name? A. John.

Q. Did you sleep in there every night? A. No, sir.

Q. When did you sleep there in the summer time?

Q. Why? A. Because it was too hot.

Q. What did you keep in there? A. We didn't.

Q. Was there any bedding in there? A. Yes, looking at all but the bedding and my clothes.

Q. What was in the other man's room down stairs there, too? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there a lock to that door? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who kept the key? A. The door never locked.

Q. Where was the key? A. We didn't have it.

Q. You said there was a lock there? A. The lock is on it, but it never locks.

Q. Did you ever see anyone come inside your room? A. Yes, I saw a couple of people come inside your room. One of the crew that felt disposed could.

Q. Did you see anybody in there at any time? A. Yes, I saw a couple of people come inside your room. One of the crew that felt disposed could.

Q. Did you see anyone there on the day of the disaster? A. No, sir. I never did see anyone there at all. We were never allowed to go inside your room, never saw anyone there at all.

Q. Do you recall? A. No.

Q. Did he smoke the same smoke? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he smoke while he was on watch at any time? A. No, sir; he never was allowed to smoke at all.

Q. Didn't smoke in the room at all? A. No, sir; he never was allowed to smoke at all.

Q. Did you see a lamp in that room when you went to bed, or after your clothes? A. No, sir; we just went and got the clothes, but it was so dark that we couldn't see anything. We took the clothes we would put them on deck. We

[illegible][illegible]

Q. Is that what I saw up and down?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. Now, did you see anything on the boiler when it cracked?  
A. After I fired I got up and there got the air.  
Q. Don't you say any longer than that, No. 1. If you saw anything on the boiler, say it.  
A. I was working all right, I ran up and down in the boiler.  
Q. Just before the fire broke out had you been in the room where this room was and saw anything on the boiler?  
A. Yes, sir. I saw the boiler was dry if my overalls were dry.  
Q. Now, did you see anything on the boiler, that was by the side of the boiler, a little way from the furnace door?  
A. Yes, sir. I was in the room at that time when you went around the boiler? A. No, sir.  
Q. Was the door still the same as you left it?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. Are you sure? A. Yes, sir.  
Q. Now, did you see anything on the boiler when you went around the boiler, just before you came on check the last time?  
A. I didn't notice; I don't know whether.

Q. Were you out when the fire broke out?  
A. No, sir; I wouldn't have been off for

Q. Where were you when you first saw or heard the engine? A. I was in the engine room. I was on the deck, looking around. When I came down the stairs to go to the engine room I just the other side of the stairs I saw the man on the deck and he told me it was on fire. Q. Did you go down the stairs? A. He was just on the stairs. Q. What was you looking at? I didn't see or hear anything. I didn't know what was going on. I KNOW AT ANY TIME AT ALL. Q. The engineer said you used to feel the engine was working? A. Yes. Q. And the engineer used the man on watch to look at the oiling part? A. Yes, sir; only just to look at the pump when I was on watch--to walk around. Q. What was the other fireman doing? A. He was on deck. I don't know what he was doing. Q. Did you see him? A. Yes, I saw him for a moment looking back with some of the deck hands. Q. Did you see which he would be sitting around talking to? A. No. Q. Nobody else was around down stairs either? A. No.

Q. When you went on the hurricane deck you saw a man standing by the boiler there? A. There was nobody there that I know of.

Q. Now, you say that you have no recollection to all these statements which you have made? A. Certainly, it is the truth, sir.

Q. Now, you say that you know nothing about the origin of the fire at all? A. No, sir.

Q. Now, you say that you do not know whether it might have happened? A. No, sir, I have no idea whatever how that fire could have occurred.

Q. Now, you say that you do not know whether it would take fire without putting a match to it? A. No, sir, not a thing like that.

Q. Now, you say that you do not know whether it might have happened without putting a light to it? A. No, sir, I don't think it would. A bed of coals would not do that.

Q. And I understand you to say that you had a lamp there once in a while to use? A. No, sir.

Q. Now, you say that you do not know whether it might have happened up at the water level?

Q. The room was six inches off the bottom.

Q. That is not where your lamp hung—where

Q. What do you mean by the front? A. Right in front of the furnace door.

Q. And at the other end of the room, isn't it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the room was at the forward end of the boat?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you have no lamp at all at that end?

A. No, sir. I don't know you for it there.

Q. If you went in that room in the evening at any time didn't you take a light with you?

A. No, sir.

Q. Supposing it was after dark? A. I had no use for a light, sir, because I never had any light after dark.

Q. You have gone certainly in that room after dark, haven't you?

A. Yes, sir. I have had to go there, but I have no use there.

Q. Look if you never went in that room after dark?

A. No, sir, except when I went to get my clothes.

Q. Did you ever go in that room after dark?

A. No, sir.

Q. When you did go did you take a lamp with you?

A. No, sir.

Q. Went in without lamp? A. Yes, sir.

**Testimony of John Fourman.**

John Fourman, Grenier, recalled and examined as follows:

Q. Now, Smith? Q. You have been sworn here before, A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you know the nature of an oath? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, I am going to ask you what you saw that night, tell the truth.

Q. How did you come to go down stairs before your watch? A. Because I had been down there before, and had seen down there about fifteen minutes before we got there, I was dependent upon where the deck hatches stop.

Q. Where is that? A. Up forward, so what do you call it?

Q. Forward of your room? A. Yes, Mr. Forester.

Q. Did you see anything? A. Yes, I saw a man who was sleeping there, and I knew it was my time to go on watch less than half an hour, and I went up to get the fireman's room to get a pair of overalls.

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